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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|
| 09/826,038 | 04/05/2001 | Toshiaki Ohmori | 50090-288 | 3783 |
| 7590 | 10/17/2003 | | | EXAMINER CHEN, KIN CHAN |
| McDermott, Will & Emery 600 13th Street, N.W. Washington, DC 20005-3096 | | | ART UNIT 1765 | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | | | DATE MAILED: 10/17/2003 |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Advisory Action | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
| | 09/826,038 | OHMORI, TOSHIAKI |
| | Examiner Kin-Chan Chen | Art Unit 1765 |

--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

THE REPLY FILED FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE. Therefore, further action by the applicant is required to avoid abandonment of this application. A proper reply to a final rejection under 37 CFR 1.113 may only be either: (1) a timely filed amendment which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a timely filed Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee); or (3) a timely filed Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114.

PERIOD FOR REPLY [check either a) or b)]

- a) The period for reply expires _____ months from the mailing date of the final rejection.
- b) The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection.
ONLY CHECK THIS BOX WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP 706.07(f).

Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

1. A Notice of Appeal was filed on _____. Appellant's Brief must be filed within the period set forth in 37 CFR 1.192(a), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 1.191(d)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal.
2. The proposed amendment(s) will not be entered because:
 - (a) they raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below);
 - (b) they raise the issue of new matter (see Note below);
 - (c) they are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or
 - (d) they present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

NOTE: _____.

3. Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s): _____.
4. Newly proposed or amended claim(s) _____ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s).
5. The a) affidavit, b) exhibit, or c) request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: see attached sheet.
6. The affidavit or exhibit will NOT be considered because it is not directed SOLELY to issues which were newly raised by the Examiner in the final rejection.
7. For purposes of Appeal, the proposed amendment(s) a) will not be entered or b) will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended.

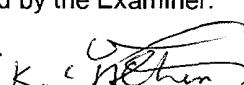
The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows:

Claim(s) allowed: _____.

Claim(s) objected to: _____.

Claim(s) rejected: _____.

Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: _____.

8. The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is a) approved or b) disapproved by the Examiner.
9. Note the attached Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____. 
10. Other: _____.

KIN-CHAN CHEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Responses to Request-For-Reconsideration-After-Final

Applicant has argued that the prior art does not teach that after dry etching, acquiring the dimension of the film to be processed and then performing wet etching based on the acquired dimension. It is not persuasive. As has been stated in the office action, Funk teaches a method of manufacturing a semiconductor device including a plurality of processing processes. The processes may be performed in sequences. The dimension (e.g., FIDC) of the film may be acquired. The processing requirements for the subsequent process may be determined on the basis of the dimension of the film to be processes. The processing processes may include dry etching (plasma etching) and wet etching (col.2, lines 38-60; col. 11, lines 12-30). **Funk teaches that a plurality of processing processes (such as dry etching and wet etching) may be performed in sequences (Col. 2, lines 39-40; col. 11, lines 12-16).**

In light of the comments above, the obviousness rejection is maintained.

Oct. 14, 2003



KIN-CHAN CHEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER